## AN OVERLAND JOURNEY.

The following letter, though written and mailed before that essentiating Mr. Orceley's visit to the diggings, did not reach New-York 183 personage 1 X.

GOOD BYE TO THE DESERT. DENVER, June 6, 1859,

My last, I believe, was written at Station 21, 20 miles up the Republican from the point at which the Leavenworth Express Company's Road strikes that river in the great American desert. Six miles farther up, the stream disappears in the deep, thirsty sands of its wide bed, and is not seen again for twenty-five miles. Even a mile or two below its point of disappearance I learn that excavations in its bed to a depth of eight feet have failed to reach water. Its reappearance below this point is marked, and seems to be caused by the timely junction of a small tributary from the south, which seems to flow over a less thirsty bed, and pours into the devouring sands of the Republican a small but steady stream, aided by which, the river begins to reappear, first in pools and soon in an insignificant but gradually increasing current. At the head of this 'sink,' the stream disappears in like manner to that of its emergence. Here is Station 22, and here are a so called spring and one or two considerable pools, not visibly consected with the sinking river, but doubtless sustained by it. And here the thirsty men and teams which have been twenty five miles without water en the Express Company's Road, are met by those which have come up the longer and more southerly route by the Smeky Hill, and which have traveled sixty miles since they last found water or shade. This is a sere trial for weary, gaunt, heavy-laden cattle, and doubtless proves fatal to many of them. The Pike's Peakers from the Smoky Hill I met here with ex-teams, had driven through the sixty miles at one stretch, the time required being two days and the intervening night. From this point, westward, the original Smoky Hill route is abandened for that we had been traveling, which follows the Republican some twenty-five miles further, its bed is often dry, or only moistened by little pools from the mesgre current which filters slowly through the deep sands below. Where the bed is sarrow and the channel under one bank, the petty stream is seen creeping away to the Kansas, the Missouri, the Mississippi, the Gulf of Mexico. Of course, there are seasons when the river runs above ground throughout, and others when the sink is far longer than now.

The face of the country remains as I have already described it, save in the greater scarcity of wood and water. The bluffs are usually low, and the dry creeks which separate them are often wide reaches of heavy sand, most trying to the ill-fed teams. There is little grass on the rolling prairie above the bluffs, and that little generally thin, dead, worthless. Some of the dry creek valleys have a little that is green but thin, while the river bottom -often half a mile wide-is sometimes tolerably grassed, and sometimes sandy and sterile. Of wood, there is none for stretches of forty or fifty miles: the cerrals are made of earth, and consist of a trench and a mud or turf wall; one or two station-houses are to be built of turf if ever built at all; and at one station the fuel is brought sixty miles from the pineries further west. Even the grasses are often coarse and rushy, or so alkaline as to be injurious to cattle: the more common plants seem to be wild sage and wild wormwood; the Cactus-which had begun to appear some 200 miles back-grows common, but is dwarfed by the pervading sterility; the Spanish Nettle and Prickly Pear are abundant further on. But little rock is seen, and that looks like a volcanic conglomerate. Yet the river, such as it is is the life of this region; the Ground Squirrel of the prairies digs his holes profusely in its vicinage; the Hawk and the Raven circle and sweep in pursuit of him; the Antelope often looks down from the ridges, and is hunted with success: the bark of the Coyote is heard, and the Gray Welf proals fearless and ferocious, and does not besitate to rob cows of their young calves in spite of the desperate maternal resistance, and even to attack and disable ponies. The harness of the mules which draw the express wagons have been often gnawed and injured as they hung up beside the tents, in which half a dozen men were sleeping, by these impudent miscreants. They may easily be shot by any one who will bait and patiently, skillfully hunt them.

A ride over a rolling 'divide' of some twenty miles brought us to the 'Big Sandy,' running southwest to become tributary (when it has anything to contribute) to the Arkansas. Like the Republican, it is sometimes a running stream, sometimes a succession of shallow pools, sometimes a waste of deep, scorehing sand. A few paltry cotton-woods, a few bunches of low willow, may have graced its banks or those of some dry creek running into it, in the course of the twenty miles or so that we followed up its northern bank, but I do not now remember any. I recollect only that the grass at intervals along its narrow bottoms seemed a little better than on the upper course of the Republican. One peculiarity of the Big Sandy I had not before observed-that of a thin aikaline incrustationmainly of soda, I believe-covering many acres of the smoother sands of its dry bed. Of course, the water of its stagnant pools must be prejudicial to man or beast. At length, we crossed its deep, trying sand and left it behind us, passing over a high 'divide,' much cut up by gullies through which the water of the wet seasons flows and tears its way to the Arkansas on the south or the Platte on the north, until we struck, at 5 last evening, the first living tributary to the Platte-a little creek called Beaver, which I have not seen on any map. It is about ten miles east of the Bijou, with which it probably unites before reaching the Platte.

After leaving the valley of Big Sandy, the grass of the uplands becomes better, and is no langer confined to the water-courses. It spreads in green luxuriance up the southward slopes of considerable bills, which seems to be owing to vast drifts of snow in Winter, swept over and off the tops of hills by the fierce prairie winds, and pilled up here to a hight of fifteen or twenty feet, to be slowly dissolved by the warmer suns of the Spring months, and thus give rise to an after growth of grass which contrasts strongly with the surrounding sterility.

-At Beaver Creek, we saw for the first time in many weary days-for more than 200 miles at the least-a clump of low but sturdy Cottonwoods, thirty or forty in number-part of them laid low by the devastating ax, but still giving hope that the desert was nearly past. And, six or seven miles after, just as night was falling, we came in sight of the Pines, giving double assurance that the moun-line almost without an attempt at defease. tains were at hand. Pike's Peak, in the westsouth-west, and Long's Peak in the west-northwest-(the latter nearly the direction of Denver)had stood revealed to us hours before by the gleam of their snowy diadems, as the morning sun dispelled the chill mists of the preceding night; but their majesty was a bleak and rugged one; while the Pines, though but scattered clumps of the short

the South as Pitch Pine, lent a grace and hospitality to the landscape which only the weary and wapworn who have long traversed parched and shadeless deserts can appreciate. They grow here mainly in steep ravines, and often show marks of fire which the bareness of the surrounding prairiessterile as "pine plains" are spt to be-renders to me inexplicable. Possibly, the fires that scorched them were kindled in the leafy carpet spread

beneath them by the trees themselves. This is but the northern outskirt of the Pine region, which stretches far south, through Arkansas and beyond, and soon thickening into forests and widening to a breadth of some sixty miles. Scattered as it is, I could hardly repress a shout on meeting it. And it was a pleasure to see last evening the many parties of wayworn gold-seekers encamped beside our way, after their long journey through a woodless region, surrounding great, ruddy, leaping fires of the dead pitch-wood, and solacing themselves for their long privation by the amplest allowance of blaze and warmth. For the climate of the American desert is terrible. Be the day ever so hot in the sun's unsoftened glare, the night that follows is sure to be chill and piercing, driving the musketoes and buffalo-gnats to their hiding-places directly after sunset. The flerce prairie-wind scarches to the marrow (ice froze a quarter of an inch thick on the Plains on the 26th of May), and a shower at this season is very apt to be accompanied by hail as well as thunder and lightning. I trust our country has no harsher climate, save high among her grandest mountains.

From the Bojon to Cherry Creek-some 40 miles-I can say little of the country, save that it is high, rolling prairie, deeply cut by several streams, which run north-eastwardly to join the Platte, or one of the tributaries just named. We passed it in the night, burrying on to reach Denver, and at sunrise this morning stopped to change mules on the bank of Cherry Creek, twelve miles south of this place (which is situated at the junction of the creek with the south fork of the Platte. The "foot hills" of the Rocky Mountains seemed but a few miles west of us during our rapid ride down the smooth valley of the Cherry Creek, which has a fine belt of Cottonwood only, but including trees of immense size-not less than three to four feet in diameter. The soil of the adjacent prairie seems light and sandy, but well grassed, and likely to yield Oats, Potatoes, &c., but the elevation (hardly less than 6,000 feet), and the proximity of the Rocky Mountains, whose snow-covered crests, gleaming between and over the foot hills, seem hardly twenty miles distant, must ever render the growth of Corn difficult if not absolutely impossible. Wheat, I understand, has been grown fifty to eighty miles south of this with moderate success. Still, if the adjacent Gold Mines realize the sanguire expectations now entertained here, this region will require Millions on Millions' worth of Food from the rich prairies and bottoms of Kansas preper, Nebraska, and Missouri, and we shall need but the Pacific Railroad to open up a most beneficent Home Trade, and give the rich valley of the Missouri and its immediate tributaries better markets than those of the East.

And I fervently trust that the fond expectations of these gold-seekers, however chastened, may not be disappointed. For the sake of the weary, dusty, foot-sore thousands I have passed on my rapid journey from civilized Kansas to this point, I pray that Gold may be found here in boundless extent and reasonable abundance. Throughout the next six weeks, they will be dropping in here, a hundred or more per day, and I trust that they are not to be sent home disappointed, spirit-broken, penniless. If they must recross the great desert with their slow-moving teams, may they be enabled to do so with lighter hearts and heavier purses.

For the very mothers who bore them would hardly recognize their sons new toiling across the Plains, and straggling into this place, hideously birsute, recklessly ragged, barefoot, sun-browned, dust-covered, and with eyes shielded (where they have them) by goggles from the glare of the prairie sun. A true picture of gold-seekers setting out from home, trim and jolly, for Pike's Peak, and those same gold-seekers, sober as judges and slowmoving as their own weary oxen, dropping into Penver, would convey a salutary lesson to many a sanguine soul. Nav: I have in my mind's eye an individual who rolled out of Leavenworth, barely thirteen days ago, in a satisfactory rig and a spirit of adequate self-complacency, but who-though his hardships have been nothing to theirs-came into Denver this morning in a sobered and thoughtful frame of mind, in dust-begrimed and tattered habiliments, with a patch on his cheek, a bandage on his leg and a limp in his gait, altogether constituting a spectacle most rueful to behold. It is likely to be some time yet before our fashionable American Spas and Summer resorts for idlers will be located among the Rocky Mountains.

-As to Gold. Denver is crazy. She has been low in the valley of humiliation and is suddenly exalted to the summit of glory. The stories of day's works and rich leads that have been told me to day-by grave, intelligent men-are absolutely bewildering. I do not discredit them, but I shall state nothing at second-hand where I may know if I will. I have come here to lay my hand on the naked, indisputable facts, and I mean to do it. Though unfit to travel, I start for the great diggings (50 miles hence nearly due west in the glens of the Rocky Mountains) to-morrow morning. H. G.

THE FOUR FAMOUS FORTRESSES.

[THE TRIBUNE translates the following article on the famous Quadrilateral from the French of Professor Dommler, of the School for Staff Officers.]

"From the commencement of the war, there has been much talk about this military position, in which Austria places so much confidence, and which in fact served her admirably, in 1848, in resuming the offensive. In order to give our readers an opportunity to indge for themselves, we will enter into some details

on this subject. The Plain of Lombardy, as is well known, is traversed throughout its whole length by that important river, the Po. The Po runs at a distance of from 35 50 miles from the last outlyers of the great chain of the Alps, which send down their ramifications as far as the southern ends of the great Italian lakes, Maggiore, Como, Isonno, and Garda. The Adda, the Oglio, the Miscio, and the Adige, are its principal usuls on the left bank. The Adda flows out of Lake Como: its left bank is commanded, throughout its course, by its right bank: it consequently does not present a good defence against an army advancing om Piedmont, and so we are not astonished to learn that, as in 1848, the Austrian army has abandoned this

It would be the same with the line of the Oglio, which, flowing out of Lake Iscene, runs nearly parallel to the Adda: but beside, this river has no important place along its banks, and nowhere presents any obstacles to the passage of an army. Probably it will not be defended, unless perhaps at its junction with the Po, where it is crossed by the high road from

Pavia to Mantua.

and scrubby variety known in New-England and | eral formed by the Mincio, with the Adige for its eastern flank, the railroad from Milan to Verons for its northers, and the Po for its southern boundary. The four corners are occupied by Peschiera, Mantua Legnano, and Verona. The railroad from Verona to Mantus forms the diagonal of this Quadrilateral. We shall soon see the importance of this position, situated as it is where the Tyrolean Alps and the Po approach each other, until the Lombard Plain is reduced to a breadth of 25 miles.

"Au army advancing toward the Adriatic cannot turn this position by the right bank of the Po without running the rick of having its line of operations cut off. The enemy eccupying these four places, all within one, or at most two, days' march of each other, can at any moment concentrate all his forces on any point threatened, and, seizing his opportunity, can crush a scattered army. Add to this that the position of Verona at the foot of the valley of the Adige secures the communication with the Tyrol, from which, though with some difficulty, an army can receive its previtions. This is the bright side of the picture; let us look at its dark side; and to do this we must enter into some of the details with regard to each of the four

Peschiera is situated on a little island formed by the Mincio as it flows out of Lake Gards. This little place is intended to command the right flank of the ine of the river, to keep open the communication with the lake, and to protect the system of damming, estabtished to produce a sudden and powerful carrent in the Mineie, capable of sweeping away any bridge of boats which may be thrown across by the enemy from Peschiera to Mantua.

"The fortifications of the place, dating from the time of the Republic of Venice, were much improved by the French, but still have never presented any considerable force of resistance. The Piedmontese. attacking Peschlera in 1848 with comparatively fee ble forces, were only a little more than three weeks in taking it. Since then the Austrians have built several detached works on the left bank of the river, to protect the place against the commanding fire of an eacmy who should succeed in establishing himself there.

"The ground between Perchiera and Mantus, that is, the country between the little river Chiese and the Mincie, forms the celebrated high plateau immortalized by the marvelous exploits of Gen. Bonaparte in the campaign of 1796. It is of very difficult access, especially on the side of the Mincio; it presents a se-rice of advancing positions of exceeding great strength. The Mincio, whose current is very rapid, has broad, marshy banks, in consequence of frequent inundations. It passes to Mantua, where it forms four artificial laker, and falls into the Po near Governole, about two miles to the south of Mantus. A caust, called Fes-Nuovo, leaving the Mi cio at Mantua, forms with the Po a delta called Il Scraglio, of extreme fertility, which contributes largely to the provisioning of the

Mantus is on an island in the middle of an artificial lake formed by the waters of the Mincle. The dikes or causeways which traverse this lake divide it into four parts; the upper, middle and lower lakes on the northern and eastern sides, and Lake Pajolo, which surrounds the city on the southern and western sides. This last lake deserves the name of a marsh rather than that of a canal, for it is very shallow, and exhales pestilential miasma which decimate the garrison, especially in summer.

"A navigable canal runs through the whole town and receives the boats coming from the Po and enter-ing into the dock by the Porta Catena. The city proper is shut in by old fortifications of a very irregular and very vicious form; it contains, in about 2,700 houses, a population of 25,000 inhabitants; the streets are strait and rather broad; the Piazza di Virgile is large and very beautiful.

"Five gates lead into the town; the Porta di Pra-

della, on the Cremens road; di Melina, toward the citadel; di San Giorgio, toward the fort of that name to the eastward; di Ceress, and di Portello. These two last gates furnish access to an intrenched camp south of the town, with which the whole circumfererce of the place is 25 miles. Four detached forts surround the body of the place. First, the citadel, with the fine gate designed by Goulio Romano, forms a regular pentagon, the gorge of which, closed by a simple wall, rests on the upper lake, here about 150 yards wide; the fort or lunette of San Giorgio is also on the left bank of the Po to the eastward. These two forts are connected with the body of the place by cause ways or dikes, very long and shallow; the fort di Presola, at the south-eastern extremity of the intrenched camp. and the fort di Pradells, defend the road to Cremons.

" As we have seen, the principal strength of Manna consists, not in the solidity of its works, but in the difficulty of approaching it in the midst of its marsh-. Gen. Poissan Latour, who in 1799 was abl to defend it against Gen. Viral only three weeks: The great inuncations and the difficulties of access give to Martua a formidable appearance which it is far from deserving."

The General then scientifically demonstrates that the fertifications of Mantus have none of the works, one of the dimensions, and none of the essential properties of a fortress, properly so called; that it is a strong place very badly defended on some points, and vered by a sheet of stagrant and unvigable water. He denies that the lakes can supply for the lack of art

'In examining their importance in defense, he shows at, supposing the besieger is master of the Po, of Lake Garda, and of the upper and lower Mincio, the lake favors the attack and injures the defense. For in the period of the melting of the snow and the great rains, the water rises to the parapets, and it is easy boats or swinmers to land on them.

We shall not dwell upon the fact that Gen. Rousparte in 1700 took the place without a regular siege, and will only remark that, with our improved artille ry, and with the increased range which has been givo our cannon, we ought to count on a speedy sucplates. By bringing them up into the Mineio, we ould penetrate into the heart of the place; by taking the detached parts in flank or rear, we should soon ice them to silence.

Legnano, situated on the Adige, twenty miles from Verona, and searly as far from Mantus, is about as strong as Poschiera, but this place has, beside, the advantage of a bridge-head on both banks of the rivwhich permits the garrison to operate with equal facility on either shere.

"Verona is the last and most distant of the four fortresses of the Quadrilateral. In the time of our Italbring surrounded by an old bastioned wall; but now is the fifst and most important of these four places, and of all the fortresses of Italy.

"As late as 1848, it was well fortified only on the eastern side toward Austria, while the western side toward Lombarev, the most important portion was very much neglected. Since then the Austrians have

It is situated on the Adige, and crossed by this iver, which descends from the Orteler-Spitz through a valley very difficult to be traveled. The Brenne road, which leads into Germany through the Tyrol debonches here from this valley.

"In their last campaign against Piesimoet, the Austrians learned to appreciate the full value of this position, and the Cabinet of Vienna has since then spared LO expense to make Verona imprograble. The old wall has been repaired, and a horned work has been added on the hights of the left bank of the river, and protected in front by four casemated towers. Beside s, the whole has been surrounded by a double circuit of detached forts, the interior circle continuing ght and the enterior twelve. These last are perfectindependent works, and defend each other like our ts about Paris.

From what we have said we draw this conclusion: that two of the four places of the Quadrilateral, Pes-We come, then, to the west side of the Quadrilat | chiera and Legnano, can present no serious resistance | abnormal sounds, said M. Cloquet, could be heard ve-

to our means of atrack; that the third, Maetua, has already been taken by us noder circumstances infinitely less favorable; and that the fourth, Verena, strong as it may be is not, after all, equal to Sebastopol, while the water of Lumbardy has sothing of the rigor of that of the peninsular Crimea. And then we have on our side the fortune of Prance in the service of a just and boly cause, and besides, the incomparable valor of our army, with the worthy inheritor of the

genius and glory of Napoleon at its head. GEN. KLAPKA ON THE FUTURE OF HUNGARY.

From the Espera, of Turin.

My convictions, and those of the enlightered men of my country, have never changed. No supremacy of one race over the other could be admitted, should Hungary ever succeed in recompacing her independence.

All the inhabitants of Hungary and Transylvania, and her was Never Raymen, and German. such as Magyars, Slaves, Rommans, and Germans, must enjoy identical and equal rights. Their desting is to remain grouped in a single combination, with the same title, the same institutions, and the same interests. As to the Crosts, they are at about to give to them As to the Croa's, they are at liberty to give to them-selves the institutions which they will juege most ap-propriate, and to dissensions can arise between them are the Hungarians.

Let Switzerland be an example to us. There, is the country of the Alps, Germans French and Italians all live at near in the country.

live at peace in their respective homes and in the ven-eration of their old customs; the flag alone unites them in the fields of honor, as does the law on the benches of the national representation, and there they are not French, Italians, or Germans—they are all only Swiss

Whatever may be the future form of the Government of Hungary, the populations which occupy the vast basins of the Danube and the Theiss have forgotten their old dissensions, which Austria created to keep them under her yoke, they march now hand in hand and with confidence toward the future. KLAPKA.

SPIRIT-RAPPING IN THE FRENCH ACAD-EMY

[THE TRIBUNE translates from the Paris Scientific Correspon-sence of L'Independance Belge.]

M. Jobers de Lamballe has communicated to the Academy some curious observations, the interest of which is not entirely confined to Physiology. His observations may in fact give a very natural explanation to these strange sounds, for the interpretation of which, in our century as well as in the Middle Ages, sopernatural causes have been invoked. We are proud, for the honor of Europe, to say that the evocations of Spirit-Rappers-a rather incongruous name -are of American origin. Did we not owe to North America the use of anzesthetic agents, we should be tempted to regard it as the classic land of all juggleries, from those which are under the ban of the police up to the turning tables. But certainly we ought not to be astonished to see such eccentricities enarming the leisure of our Parisiennes, when we learn from M. Gozlan that our cold and positive teighbors of Bright on indulge in them, under the name of "Spiritism, with a seriousness which is as importurbable as it is

But to the phenomenon of M. Jobert: in Mdlle, de X., a girl of 14, stout and well built, the able surgeon has observed regular involuntary movements of the minor right lateral muscle of the shin-bone, taking place every second, and producing a sound behind the internal malleola, which is heard with remarkable dis tinctness to a considerable distance. This sound is produced in whatever position the girl may be-in bed, out of bed, sitting or lying, and at any hour of the day or night. But it may be stopped by extenting the foot, as also by compre-sing certain points on the foot and leg. Lately the left lateral muscle of the shin-hone has been subject to the same motions.

M. Jobert interprets the phenomenon in this way he analyzes each sound into two motions; in the first, the tenden of the miner lateral muscle gets out of its groove, pushing away the major lateral muscle to the skin. In the second, when the contraction is over. the tendon relaxes, flies back into the groove, and by striking against it produces the dry, sonorous sound which is heard.

And so, according to M. Johert, the affection of Melle. X. shows how, under the influence of muscular contraction, the displaced tendons may, in falling back into their bony grooves, pro moe the sounds which, to credulous people, announce the presence of spirit-rap-

But M. Johert does not limit himself to the interpretation of the fact which he has witnessed, in his study of the phenomena which have caused so much emotion within a few years past; he recounts with fid-lity and analyzes with exacticude all that the world owes to M. Schiff in this respect. He shows us this wise and sagacious observer, throwing aside all idea of supernatural intervention, commencing by ascertaining that these strange sounds always occur at es. Let us lock, however, at what is said of it by the the foot of the bed of individuals agitated by the spirits and from this first fact arguing that the seat of the raps is not without the organism of the person, but within the organism itself; that the sound may be made in the leg, in the region of the shin, by the tendens and the bony surfaces; and then, with this explanation in his head, making experiments on himself which left no doubt that the rap had its origin behind the malleols, and in the groove of the tendon of the muscles of the shin-bone. M. Johert reminds us that M. Schoff soon became able to perform this at will, regularly and harmoniously, and that he can imitate, sitting or lying, before a great number of persons fuffy at one time), the prodicies of the spirit-rappers; and that while he is executing these movements a spectator, with his hand on the malleola, can feel the slips of the tendon forward and backward.

There is a slight disagreement here between MM. Jobert and Schiff, not in regard to the main fact, but in one of the details. M. Schiff thinks that the sound is possible only when the sheath has become thin or disappeared entirely, and that it becomes loader as the foot is more tense and more firmly fixed. Agreeing with the German physiologist as to the cause and seat of the rapping, M. Jobert does not agree with him on all the points of his theory. He thinks that the rap can be produced without an anomalous condicess, as it will be possible for us to bring up on the Po our flat bettomed gun-beats sheathed with iron tion of the sheath, that the extension of the foot makes it disappear entirely, that the minor muscle is the agent, and that this muscle is much superior in

its action to the major. If, in fac, the sound could not be produced without as anomalous formation, how could all the me

M. Schiff do it himself ! Finally, to leave no doubt with regard to his opinion, M. Jobert sets forth all the phenomens observed which are evidently due to the action, wnother voluntary or not, of the minor muscle, and at last comes to the decisive proof-a surgical operation which put ian wars it was only a place of secondary importance, an end to all these sounds. The able operator made an incision into the minor muscles, both right and left, holding the limbs still by the aid of an apparatus. When they healed up, the patient was found to have recovered the use of her limbs, and there was trace of the singular and rare affection from which she had coffered.

M. Velpeau, in giving his complete assent to everything contained in the interesting communication of M. Jobert, whose interpretation appeared to him to leave nothing to be desired, cited some cases in which sounds have been heard in other regions of the body, metimes clear and sharp, and at other times dall, and dead, and expressed the wish that physiologists would seriously examine these various sounds, and eublish the rational explanation of phenomena not understood, or attributed to occult and supernatural

M. Jules Cloquet, in support of the observation of M. Velpeau relative to the sounds which may be proneed by tendons in various portions of the body, rehered to a girl of 17 or 18, who came to the Hospita Saint-Louis at a time when MM. Velpean and Johert were attached to this establishmeat. The father of this young person, a sort of charlatan who called himself Father of the Phenomenon, counted on making some money by a public exhibition of his chil i, and proposed to appeance that she had a clock in her stomach. These

ry distinctly at a distance of more than twenty-five feet, and resembled the sound of an old turn-spit. They could be so pended at will by the girl, and appeared to have their sext in the muscles of the lumbar region of the vertebral column.

M. Johert recognized the fact, with MM. Veipeau and Cloquet, that absormal sounds might be heard | in the hip and in the shoulder; that certain sounds, in the shoulder especially, might be made, as M. Velpeau had remarked, under the influence of the will when the tenden of the long part of the bleeps of the arm had suffered a charge of position, or when it had been luxated. But according to M. Jobert, there is a great difference between these sounds and those he has mentioned, which show a regularity in accordance with the involuntary contraction of the nuscle, the relaxation of the tendon and the percussion in a bony

Certain anatomic conformations are indeed necessary to produce these effects; and nowhere can they be found more advantageous than in the ordinary sheath of the lateral muscles of the shin-bone, and the groove which receives them. These anatomical relations, continues M. Jobert, are so favorable to the formation of sounds, voluntary and involuntary, that there are persons who, by practice, have become able to execute airs, the Marseillaise, La Marche Bavaroise, and La Marche Francaise, with perfect regularity, merely by the action of the muscles of the shin-bone. Never in any other region of the body have such and so curious sounds been produced.

We have dwelt upon the present communication because it gives an explanation of physiological phepomena which are rather rare, and which Science has not studied sufficiently. Perhaps it will show that the name of spirit-rappers, given to the cause of this act, is not less contradictory to common sense than to the legic of language; and that these spirits, which the dictionary calls incorporeal substances, and which it deprives of all shadow of body, not only cannot rap without muscles, but that they cannot hear without ears, or consequently respond to the requsitions which are made of them; because, in fact, the comnunication of M. Johert appears to us to give the final blow to a jugglery which is not without danger for the reason and the health of impressionable proselytes.

Too generally, when a fact is presented which appears to contravene the established order of things, gnerance bastens to attribute it to a supernatural ause; that is to say, to a violation of eternal and immutable laws; and the juggler never fails to profit by it at the expense of a credulous public. Science, on the contrary, begins by verifying the fact; she records , and then sets herself patiently at work to find out the explanation of it, without ever becoming weary at any time or labor spent in this search. If she has no found the explanation, she frankly confesses it; when she has found it, she makes no secret of it. In the fact which she has now established, Science gives us the explanation of the pretended spirit-rappings, as, on another occasion (see the Independance of May 9, 1857), she gave us that of the Music-Metals; as on another still (Independance of May 9 and September 23, 1857), she gave us that of the incombustibility of the hand plunged into molten lead; and as, quite lately (Independence of April 27) she has declared that she had nothing to do with the cure of M. Sax. The great difficulty with the miracles of the present is that they come a few centuries too late.

SYSTEMATIC BALLOONING.

LETTER FROM MR. WISE. To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

Sin: In your daily of July 6, is an article headed Voyaging in the Sky." It seems to me that a little explanation of what I have for twenty years contended seems now in place. Without wishing to criticise anything you have there stated, I will only state my plain propositions.

I say there is a current of air blowing from west to

east continually, and this current runs never less than fifty miles an hour; oftener sixty, seventy and eighty. Prof. Henry thinks it is the return current of the trade winds. As we ascend higher in the current, it runs faster, until we find it changing a little south of east. The lower current, near the earth, runs toward the porth of cast. I have found these currents at all times of the year from the 1st of April to the 12th of December. In my correspondence with Charles Green of London, a scientific aeronant of much experience, I learn from him that these currents exist like wise in Europe. From my experience of finding them thirty-nine times out of forty trials, I contend that regular and precise voyages can be made from west to east, and to places fifteen and twenty degrees north of east from the point of starting. Why, then, it is asked, did we not sail to the City of New-York and deliver our Express bag! It is a very rational inquiry, and de-

serves a rational explanation.

It could have been done, and should have been done.

The reseen why it was not done is this: some of our party did not provide themselves with extra c immediately after leaving St. Louis, I took the to an altitude at which she was making due east. In this current we sailed until some of my companions shivered with the cold, so that the balloon quivered with the tremer. Mr. La Mountain had taken no extra clothing, and the other two were not fully provided for the change of temperature. I had on two undershirts, woolen drawers, cloth cost, cassimere pants, and when over these I had two woolen blankers, the expostulations of my companions to come down into a more congenial temperature could not be unheeded. I admonished them, however, of our advertisement to sail or New York; but in response wastold that if we got in-the Stare the programme would be fulfilled. I also old them that the lower current would take us on the lakes, as it was coming from the south-weet; but to this it was answered that we could cross the lakes if

we had ballast enough when we got to toem. e had balled effect upon that plan, and to make the We finally agreed upon that plan, and to make the oyage one of distance and experiments. One experi-ent was to try and sail rear the earth or water. We ment was to try and sail near the earth or water. We fid sail 170 m les down over Lake Erie, and at no time ver 600 feet above the water. This showed that balloons have no greater tendency to water than to earth.

Many seromants have stated that balloons will not

Many neronants have stated that balloons will not keep up over the water.

You refer to my silence as to the propelling machinery. That I had not devised nor recommended, and I had no faith in its efficiency from the beginning, as Mr. Geger and La Mountain well know. They never made an attempt to try it. It was thought to enlanger the balloon while hitching on the car and boat, and was thus ungeared, and I well know then that they would not attempt to screw on the fans when we were aloft, unless they would incur a danger as great as that incurred by Thurston, when he attempted an unnecesany feat in straddling his valve plate. Propellers upon the ordinary rigged balloon will do no good, for this reason: The car or platform upon which the propel-lers are to be worked, is not substantially fixed to the balloon. Hanging by ropes from the balloon, it only serves to wabble it about, and at best to give it a rotary and gyrating motion. I tried it fourteen years ago. With an equatorial hoop around the balloon, with wooden braces to the car which would give it stability and unity, semething may be done with propellers and rudunity, something may be done with propellers and rud-der. You will thus see that I have not failed on that wit, as the mechanicy was note of my contrivance, y purpose was simply to make a long voyage from est to east, and in that voyage learn what may be

done systematically with belloons.

I am now convinced that we can go from St. Louis to Baltimore. Philadelphia and New York City, with belloons, with system and precision. I hold, and am ready to demonstrate it, as soon as I can raise six thousand dollars, that we can sail from New-York City of Great Britain, with system and precision. This we to Great Britain with system and precision. This we can do with our present knowledge of ballooning. All I ask is a fair chance—a little more experience—one,

we or three more trans-continental trips.

We were caught in a terrific gale just when we were best landing west of Rochester, for the purpose of rading the U. S. Company's Express to your city, and than they ever delivered one before—which was all I promised the company when we orgaged to take it, and but for that accidental gale would have fulfilled the promise.

Respectfully, yours,

Lencaster, Pa., July 6, 1839.

MR. LA MOUNTAIN'S ACCOUNT.

Mr. La Mountain has addressed a long letter to The Troy Times, descriptive of the recent voyage of which we have already given Mr. Wise's account. His pictures of the appearance of the earth and heavens are graphic.

As we passed up, the great City of St. Locis beneath seemed to be compressed and drawn together on a concave, the valleys and woods melting into each other until their outlines became almost indistinguishable;

the great, sporting steamboats below looking like toy-houses floating in a gutter, and emitting faint puffs of smoke. At about 8 o'clock, we could see that the the great, sporting standards are all the great, sporting as auther, and emitting faint pails of smoke. At about 8 o'clock, we could see that the people below were beying their stated, although we were in a full bisze of tight. The prairies looked like wast fields of polar ice, slightly taged with green, but quite destitute of luminous properties. Between us and them hung suspended, evidently, a dark and almost opaque belt, which seemed like a vail drawn over the country. The alternate patches of cultivated grounds, water sheets, and little hills and galebes, gave to all a diversified appearance; though the hills had lost their relative conc-like appearance, and seemed to be vast sugar loaves, fretted with raisins and lemor-parings—the effect of alternate forest and grass. Such a spectacle must be seen to be appreciated, and can be seen only by those who study nature from the favorable position we occapied. Very gradually, the darkness stole up from below. It was as though invisible hands were hitted up the vail as it approached and enveloped us. In a few moments the sun left us, disappearing in a hazy, luminous bank of red. It did not become dark. Throughout the night, we were able at all disclosures the sun left us, disappearing in a disclosure in the wooded. hazy, luminous bank of red. It did not become dark. Throughout the night, we were able at all times to distinguish the prairies from the wooded country below, even when at an altitude of two miles. We were floating in a sort of transparent two miles. country below, even when at an anatom control of two miles. We were floating in a sort of transparent vapor, which without purcersing any perceptible body, yet seemed to be nade up of luminous particles. The effect of this light was very peculiar it gave the balloon a phosphorescent appearance, as though it were charged with fire. So powerful was this, that every line of the netting, evely fold of the silk, every cord and wrinkle, were as plantly visible as if illuminated by torches; and I could at any moment tell time by consulting my watch. This phenomenon became more striking as we is creased our ait tude. My theory of a fact so remarkable and before unbeard of, is that the clouds, charged with electrical principles, and acceding the property of the sun, emitted and dispensed through the air the luminous particles, which, though separately indistinguishable, were still the myriad torch-hearers of our wondrous way. This theory has scientific warner in the fact that ships have sometimes been similarly illuminated at sea, so powerfully that the mast-head was visible from deck, which would proceed from the same causes, acting under different circumstances. That it is not a natural feature of night above the earth's surface, is shown by the fact that when Charles Green, Mark Mason and Lord Holland. above the earth's surface, is shown by the fact that when Charles Green, Mark Mason and Lord Holland made their famous tectureal voyage from London to Weilburg, it was so dark it seemed as if the balleon were passing through solid blocks of black marble.

THE DAWS.
From I o'clock until sunrise, at about 41 o'clock, I From I o'clock until sunrise, at about 44 o'clock, I kept the balloon within 400 or 500 feet of the earth-using during that time but three pounds of ballast, which I consider a litle remarkable. During this period, all three of my companions were fast asleep—the atmosphere being very warm and pleasant a: the altitude we maintained—and their decided snoring gave me a pleasant accompaniment in my voyage, and somewhat varied my reflections.

About 35 minutes past I o'clock, the balloon lowered suddenly, so as to aimost touch the tops of the trees. I threw out three pounds of ballast, and heard the sand strike upon a roof-top, probably in a town in Cass County. This small discharge elevated us so that we passed clear of an ugly piece of woods a short

Cass County. This small discharge elevated us so that we passed clear of an ugly piece of woods a short distance abead. I called out always on passing a house, and was invariably answered by the bark or howl of a dog. At this time, daylight made its appearance, beraided by a faint glimmering in the East, quickly followed by the most beautiful auroral pheromena, and a brilliant illumination of the whole vistor of the space is which we were movroral pheromena, and a brilliant illumination of the whole vists of the space in which we were moving. Again, the vail seemed to drop over us, hung for a short time between the balleon and the earth, and then disappeared, as if its particles had decomposed and floated away. As if by magic, all was glowing in vernal beauty around, and a spleadid panorama lay spread out beneath us, the yellow fields of grain, the wooded patches, and the tortuous windings of the streams, being clearly distinguishable. The rising of the sun clothed all these in glorious robes of living, sparkling light. It seems as if every tree top hore a coronal and every field of g ain was headed with a cabinet of gems, while the surface of the waters shown with an untold magnificence. I could not refrain from exclaiming aloud in wondering admiration of the glory of nature's God. My companions, who were awake by this time, joined with me in feasting upon the raylshing splender of the view.

THE DESCENT. THE DESCENT.

Above, the clouds were as black as ink; around, the

winds were howling as if alive with demons; and be-lew, the waters, capped with foam, and lashed by the contending air currents, swept up in swells fifteen feet high, that ran in every conceivable direction. Mr. Hyde said to me, "I guess we are gone!" and with a despaning countenance climbed up with Wise and Gager into the basket, leaving me alone in the boat. It was a desperate time, but I cannot say I was disconcerted. I had seen worse perils of the same sort before. My only thought was, that at a point on the shore dimly visible from where I stood, my mother lay buried. Wise locked over the basket and shouted, "For God's sake, La Mountain, throw everboard anything you can lay your flowers on."

"For God's sake, La Mountain, throw everboard anything you can lay your fingers on!"

I knew Mr. W. was excited, and did not care to waste my ballast so high above the water. Down we came, at the rate of a mile and three-quarters a mine, or three times the velocity of an express train, and plump we went upon the water. The effect of striking the wave crest was the same as would have been a descent upon a sharp pointed rock. I was holding on by the ropes when the shock came. Its force was so terrific as to dash in three planks on one side of the boat—but the water being prevented from coming in by the strong canvas on the outside. After the conboat—but the water being prevented from coming in by the strong canvas on the outside. After the con-cussion, we bounded up 50 or 60 feet, like a rocket shot. I was jetked by the shock so that my head hung over the water. My beaver fell off, and my wateh-guard was broken square in two. Recovering myself, I seized a hatchet, and proceeded to cut away the lining, &c., and threw them overboard. My companions above were excitable call. our ing out to me on all sorts of subjects, but I paid as litlioon the attention as possible to them. After we escaped the first shock, I felt perfectly confident that we would come out safely, and told them so, but they hardly seemed to believe me. Mr. Wise here proposed to seemed to believe me. Mr. Wise here proposed to descend into the lake and swamp the balloom—in other words, to leave us at the mercy of the waves fifteen feet high, to swim forty or forty-five miles to shore! He must have made the proposition thoughtlessly; but, of course, I pere uptorily declined it. I callet to my companions to hand me down their carpet begs, value, and mail bag, and other articles, which I successively threw into the lake, and thus kept above the water—alternately by cutting away parts of the boat. I knew, if I crimed into the basket with the others, we should all be dreward together. I hoped that by climping to the boat and cutting it no pieceothers, we among at the boat and cutting it up piece-meal, we might be saved. At all events, I was deter-mined not to be drowned if I could help it—though, thinking such a result not impossible, I pinned my watch in my pantaloous pocket, thinking that if we were drowned my body might be washed ashore, when my wife would get the keepsake. The result verified my anticipations. The balloon did not strike the water again, but varied from six to fifty feet above the later watcher than the research of the boat I cut way. the water again, but varied from six to firty rectabore, it, as I threw out the pieces of the boat I cut away. We soon came in sight of land, forty miles to the leeward. I took out my watch, and saw that it was ten minutes past I. This was the most delightful sight during the voyage. I was now confident that we could keep the balloon up during the remaining distance. When within twelve miles of land, at 25 minutes past I, we passed the propeller Oswego, and I saluted her by swinging a piece of board and then throwing it over. As we neared shore, we saw that we were tending swinging a piece of board and then throwing it over, we saw that we were tending toward a vacant field near a piece of woods, and determined, if possible, to have the boat-ear merely sking this field, and let the balloon go to pieces against the trees. At if minutes to if we swept on to shore, and as my mission in the boat was accomplished. I clumbed up into the car, where I was warmly received by my companions. As the gale took the shore, it caught up about fifty feet, carrying us that hight, and leaving us on the tops of the trees without car and anchor, drawring through them. On he went, the balloon us on the tops of the trees without car and abendry dragging through them. On he went, the balloon surging, heaving, and literally mowing its way, sweep-ing of the tops of branches, tearing up trees, swinging soutetimes almost vertically, and leaving a clear path through the woods by our curse. At last, just as we were about despairing, the balloon caught in the last tree in the woods—a monetrons olm—the silk gave way, swing backward and forward at a tremendous rate several times, then dropped at successive stages lifty feet down the branches, and we were safe.

LATER FROM PIKE'S PEAK.

From The Leavenworth Times, Estra, July L. These Office, Leavenworth, July 2, 1859. The ensuing letters are from our regular correspon eut, and contain a complete summary of all matters interest at the mines up to the latest dates: DESVEE CTTY, June 17, 1859.

Desware Criv. June 17, 1839.

A large prospecting party, to be composed of George miners, and eat Canternams and experienced momentaineers is just being organized in the Gregory Durings. They will start under the anspices of the orners of some of the rich leads already worked, who, with lautable liberality, will bear most of the expensation of the purpose of securing a thorough exploration of the mountain regions. From five to seven weeks and be employed to accomplish the object of the journey, and the party will extend this prospecting as far as the Great Basin, in a westerly, and the Medicine Bos Mountains, in a northerly direction. The explorer and discoverer par excellence, Gregory, will be, as small at the head of this bold and creditable enterprise.

From day to day, the necessity of employing the

From day to day the necessity of employing as becomes plainer. Since the discovery of gold-bearing ready become very desirable in comnich decomposed, but yet bard quarts rock that sal